

By: Peter Sass – Head of Democratic Services

To: Scrutiny Committee – 19 April 2016

Subject: Academies – successes and challenges in Kent – Discussion Item

Status: Open

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Summary: The Scrutiny Committee is receiving an update on KCC actions in relation to the proposed Academisation of all schools by 2022, with reference to what steps the Council may take to maintain quality education in the County.

This covering report provides summary information which may assist the Committee in discussion of the item.

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## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Following the announcement of the policy by Central Government that all schools should become academies by 2022, questions were raised at the recent County Council meeting in relation to KCC's response to the announcement and what steps would be taken to ensure this did not have a negative impact on education provision. (See Appendix 1 for County Council Questions and Answers)
- 1.2 Under the previous Coalition government, there was a significant shift toward academies. Over 4,700 schools have converted to academy status, up from 200 in 2010; a 2350% increase over 6 years.

## **2. Scrutiny Committee action**

- 2.1 Prior to the County Council meeting, the Scrutiny Committee Chairman and Spokespeople requested an update on the successes of and challenges facing academies in relation to the government proposal of academisation.

## **3. Attendance**

- 3.1 The following Members and Officers will be attending to provide updates and answer questions:
  - Mr Gough – Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform
  - Patrick Leeson – Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services

## **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Committee may note the update, express comments and make recommendations to the relevant Officer, Cabinet Member, Leader or Full Council.

## **5. Background Papers**

Appendix 1 – County Council Questions & Answers 11 and 12: 24 March 2016

White Paper – Educational Excellence Everywhere

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/508550/Educational\\_excellence\\_everywhere\\_\\_print\\_ready\\_.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/508550/Educational_excellence_everywhere__print_ready_.pdf)

## **6. Contact details**

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